

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 07924 101808Z

44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 RSR-01 /122 W

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R 101747Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2501

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MZ

SUBJECT: ALLEGED MASSACRE IN MOZAMBIQUE

1. THE TIMES OF JULY 10 CARRIES AN EXCLUSIVE FRONT PAGE ARTICLE DESCRIBING MASSACRE OF AFRICAN INHABITANTS OF THE VILLAGE OF WIRIAMU IN WESTERN MOZAMBIQUE BY PORTUGUESE MILITARY FORCES. MASSACRE IS SAID TO HAVE OCCURRED DURING AN ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATION ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 16, 1972. AUTHOR OF ARTICLE IS FATHER ADRIAN HASTINGS OF THE COLLEGE OF THE ASCENSION IN BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND. HE BASED IT ON REPORTS RECEIVED FROM TWO SPANISH MISSIONARIES, FATHERS MARTIN HERNANDEZ AND ALFONSO VALVERDE, WHO REPORTEDLY ARE IN PRISON IN LOURENCO MARQUES AWAITING TRIAL FOR THEIR ATTEMPTS TO EXPOSE PORTUGUESE ATROCITIES.

2. FATHER HASTING'S ACCOUNT IS FULL OF LURID DETAIL AND HE LIKENS ALLEGED MASSACRE TO THE MY LAI INCIDENT IN

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VIETNAM. NAMES OF SOME 86 PEOPLE SAID TO HAVE BEEN SHOT

ARE LISTED IN THE ACCOUNT WHICH CLAIMS THAT THERE WERE MORE THAN 400 VICTIMS ALL TOLD. IN SAME EDITION, TIMES RAN AN EDITORIAL WHICH ASSERTS THAT WIRIYAMU MASSACRE WILL BE OF ENORMOUS SIGNIFICANCE TO THE FUTURE OF MOZAMBIQUE AND IMPLIES THAT THIS MAY BE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR PORTUGUESE.

3. TIMES DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT RENDEL TELLS US THAT PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR HAS ALREADY PROTESTED PUBLICATION OF FATHER HASTINGS' ARTICLE. RENDEL SAYS HE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT FATHER HASTINGS NOR DO WE. OUR FILES CONTAIN NOTHING TO SUGGEST THAT INCIDENT OCCURRED IN MOZAMBIQUE AROUND THE DATE SPECIFIED WHICH MIGHT BE RELATED TO ALLEGED MASSACRE.

4. COPIES OF TIMES ARTICLE AND EDITORIAL BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT AND LOURENCO MARQUES.

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Message Attributes

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